Depot Town Rag

July 1987
for the good of the block:

Boomer Days
July 10, 11, 12

Association & Foundation
7:30 p.m. Thursday, 16th, Caboose

Artists & Artisans
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 8th & 22nd, Caboose

Antique Engine Club
7:30 p.m. Thursday, 23rd
at Domino's Barn

Depot Town Antique Dealers Assoc.
6:04 p.m. every Tuesday
Old Town Restaurant

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. **The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198**

Boomers Lead The Way for State Celebrations

Festivals Coincide Along Michigan's Waterways

After eight years of local celebration, Out Town's mid-July hoopla finally flowed down stream and infected the rest of this Great Lake State with appreciation of its natural resources. Eight years ago Depot Towners started to enjoy that space from the railroad tracks to the Huron River with events ranging from track-walking to carp fishing. This Sesquicentennial year finds many more citizens playing among themselves in towns across the state which border on natural waterways.

The Michigan Water Festival kicks off this month with events as disparate as the Detroit/Windsor Freedom Festival -- to the parade of tall ships for the Governors' Conference in Traverse City -- to water resource events along most every lake and waterway in the state. Sunday, July 12th, will see the Carp for Kids contest coinciding with many other events in Ypsilanti's Riverside Park for our district's celebration of Huron River Day.

*Come bum around in Depot Town as we celebrate our railroad heritage and the hey-day of bums, tramps and hobos with family-oriented activities.

Ypsilanti, Michigan's historic Depot Town

celebrates its 8th annual

Boomer Days
July 10, 11, 12, 1987

Friday, July 10, 1987

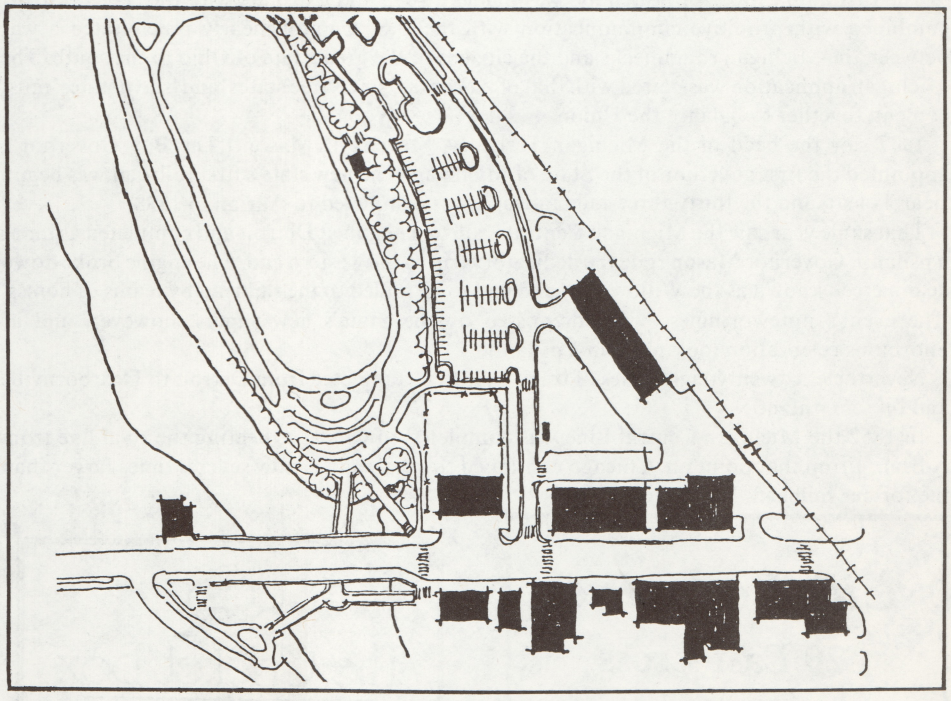
7-9 p.m. Freight House Coffee Shop

Coronation of the Hobo Royalty

Vote for your favorite local bums with spare change at The Cricket Box, 19 East Cross Street, until Thursday, July 9 at 4 p.m. The top-grossing male and female will be crowned King & Queen of the hobos, and will be showered with gifts at our Friday evening kick-off.

The coronation will be immediatley followed by a reception with refreshments sponsored by the Depot Town Association.

program cont'd. on 3



Bridge and Parking Lot plans continue throughout the summer.

Detroit Edison completed lighting the lot in early June. The Depot Town improvements are highlighted here in the map by Pollack Design Associates and Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment.

Fourth in a series on the Michigan Sesquicentennial theme: "A Celebration of What Was and Will Be"

RAILROADED

Sometimes you can tell how proficiently the local wagon works served their customers by how far west the wagons made it before breaking down. Even in western Pennsylvania one can see mailboxes held up by antique wagon wheels at the end of the driveway. Some of them made it to Illinois or Iowa before turning their wagon's wheels into fences, porch rails or flower box holders.

Settlers from New York and Pennsylvania took advantage of the Erie Canal and started west in canal and barge boats. Those who were able to make the passage across Lake Erie often sought the shelter of the several rivers oozing out of the swamps of the lower penninsula of the Michigan Territory. The Maumee, Raisin, Otter Creek, Huron, Rouge, and Clinton all saw barges poled or towed up stream as far as they could go before landing and creating new settlements, often bearing the names of towns they left back in New York which were named after towns they had left in England and the Continent.

In 1823, Benjamin Woodruff established his 'Grove' when his family and friends just couldn't muster the strength to push against the water any farther. The Great Forest stretched far to the north, and The Grove's site was at the edge of the great prairie. Indian trails converged here, and many wagons traversed the prairie westward to a newer and more savage wilderness.

Surveyors came through three years later and charted the trail which was later to become the Detroit-to-Chicago road. Today, Michigan Avenue is the longest singly-named street in America, still connecting these two metropoli. Woodward, Stewart and Harwood moved a mile north and platted 'Ypsilanti' at the site of the Chicago Road. At the same time, an enterprising young man dismantled his steamboat in Muskegon and turned it into a sawmill. Big changes were in place for the Territory.

The first application for Statehood was made in 1835 and a dispute with the 'Toledo strip,' combined with primitive communication with the U.S. Capitol, nearly precipitated a war between the Michigan roughnecks and the citizens of the great state of Ohio to the south. The Michigan application was paired with that of Arkansas, since 'free states' and 'slave states' must come in together to balance the Union.

1837 saw the head of the Michigan Territory, Stevens T. Mason ('The Boy Governor'), appointed the first governor of the State of Michigan. The new state's first railroad was begun near Toledo and the thirty-three-mile railroad was completed to Adrian in 1838.

That same year saw the Michigan Central Railroad begun at Detroit and completed as far as Ypsilanti. Governor Mason rode the dedicatory trip to the western end. The engine broke down near a creek known as the Willow Run and had to be pulled to the railhead by teams of horses. The event's noteworthiness was not missed by the State's newspapers, however, and an enormous celebration took place in Ypsilanti.

Nevertheless, twenty-eight miles of track had been completed from Detroit to Dearbornville and on to Ypsilanti.

In 1852 the Michigan Central Line was completed to Chicago, beating the rival line from Adrian. From that point on, Chicago continued to grow, and is now several times larger than the former railhead: Ypsilanti.

Antique Dealers Cooperate

Ypsilanti's premiere antique dealers meet at the Old Town Restaurant every Tuesday evening at 6:04 p.m. (That's just enough time for Paul Klawitter to close his shop and get over there, even if he has to wait for the train to cross.) A June meeting saw the group sit down with Dan Tennow, president of the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce and Charles Keihlor, director of the Small business Center to discuss even more possible benefits from their association.

Known as the Depot Town Antique Dealers Association, the group includes all six entrepreneurs from this district as well as downtown's **Materials Unlimited** and **Schmidt's Antiques** on West Michigan Avenue. The other prime movers in this new association include **Jim MacDonald's Antiques/ Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing, Cross Street Antiques, Thompson Building Mall, Vintage Passion** and **Depot Exchange,** bearing out the long-held suspicion that Ypsilanti is the attic of the midwest when it comes to antique shopping.

First projects for the dealers include group ads in regional publications and directories, a brochure highlighting local shops and weekly promotional sessions. Other dealers from within and without Depot Town are invited to attend and participate in this vital, new organization.

CROSS STREET ANTIQUES
33 East Cross

Vintage Passion
Unusual & Different Costume Jewelry
32 East Cross

Thompson Building Mall
Over 4000 square feet of dealers
412 North River • 484-4288

Depot Exchange Antiques
Professional Furniture Stripping
54 East Cross

Jim MacDonald's Antiques
Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing
29 East Cross • 481-0555

City Body, Inc.
20 East Cross

Front Alignments
Special - **$24.95**

The Cricket Box
19 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
(313) 487-5595

from page one

See details in brochures throughout the district!

Saturday, July 11, 1987

8 a.m. - noon Riverside Park

Carp For Kids

• • • • • • • • •

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Market Square, around the Caboose & in the parking lot

Boomer Boutique

Tramp Art Display
at Cross Street Antiques, 33 East Cross

The Bums' Rush

• • • • • • • • •

10 a.m. - noon -- Market Square

Kidsart

• • • • • • • • •

10 a.m. - noon -- Market Square

Hobo Jungle Building and Architecture Contest

• • • • • • • • •

7 - 10 p.m. -- Freight House

Hobo Hoedown & Fash Bash

• • • • • • • • •

2:00 p.m., Saturday, July 11, 1987

Mulligan Stew-Off

The community's finest cooks are invited to bring their versions of a "typical" hobo stew. You must bring at least one quart of stew, warm and ready to eat (a thermal container is recommended). Entries must be accompanied by a printed or typewritten recipe. First prize is an oak bench from Ray Coy of Cross Street Antiques ($65 retail value). Second prize is a country wreath from Out Little Secret ($27 retail value). Third prize is a small type tray or case from Rodney Wing of Cross Street Antiques ($15 retail value).

The Vitamin Shoppe
Vitamins, Herbs, Nutritional Suppliments
9 East Cross • 485-2711

Our Little Secret
Resale Clothing & Other Niceties
23 East Cross

PEDDLER'S PATH
44 East Cross

Sunday, July 12, 1987

In conjunction with the Michigan Sesquicentennial Water Festival:

Huron River Awareness Day

11 a.m. Miller's Ice Cream Parlor parking lot

Ugly Americans Bicycle Club Reception

• • • • • • • • •

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Market Square, around The Old Caboose and parking lot

Boomer Boutique

• • • • • • • • •

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Sidewalks

Antique Engine Club Exhibit

• • • • • • • • •

Noon - 4 p.m. Riverside Park - North End

Community Picnic

• • • • • • • • •

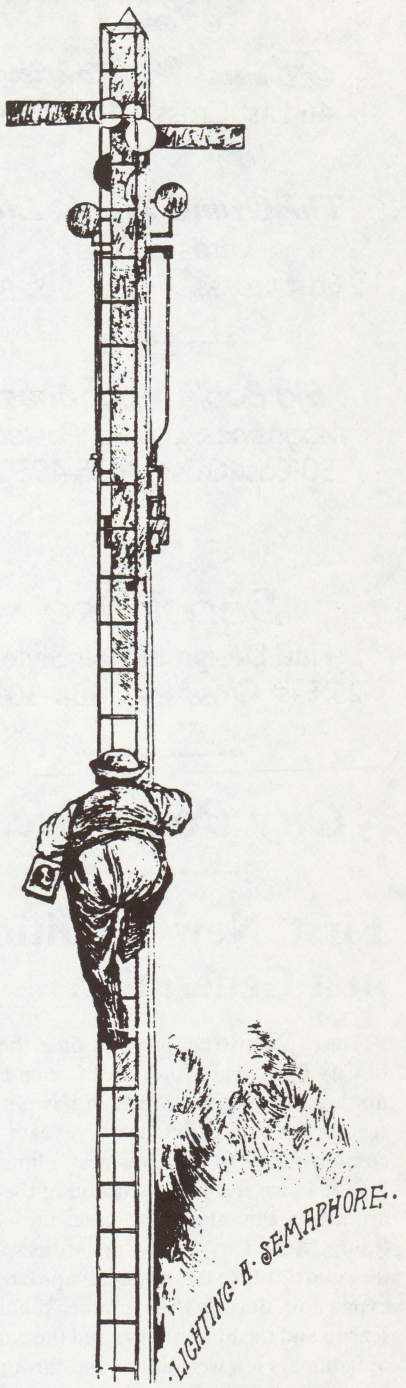
1 - 2:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Peaceable Community Games

• • • • • • • • •

Noon - 3 p.m. The Old Caboose

Little Moochers' Scavenger Hunt

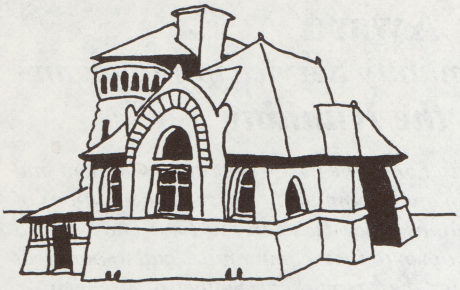


Ypsilanti Recycling Project
20 East Cross • 487-9727

Hansen's
Standard Printing
35 East Cross • 483-0339

Depot Doo
Fine Design in Hair Style
25 East Cross • 484-3045

RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN



Highland Cemetery an Overlooked Treasure

Something which has been dear to my heart but which I have gotten only a lukewarm response about from those I have talked with (probably because I'm talking to the wrong bunch!) is the really extraordinary beauty and architecturally interesting Highland Cemetery --- burial site of many prominent Ypsilantians and others. Last year, on Memorial Day, members of the parish joined me in a pilgrimage to the burial sites of a number of well-remembered parishioners. These included Frederick Pease, former organist/choirmaster, Samual Post, former warden, Dr. & Mrs. John Wilson, former rector & wife.

The really lovely grounds of the cemetery and the splendid mounuments, which are interest historically are architecturally, along with the lovely Starkweather Chapel, ought to be appreciated by the larger community and visited at times other than grieving ones.

In other place, I have been part of a local Friends of Highland Cemetary, for example, who gave care, knowledgeable tours and interest in preservation to what is often not seen as a community asset. The idea seems right to those I have talked to here in Ypsilanti but I feel it warrants a wider discussion.

If there is some chance that through the words of your August Rag, you might stimulate some interest, I would be most happy to help further.

With every good wish, I am, sincerely,
The Very Reverend Jasper Pennington,
Rector St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

(We know how you feel. Many of us remember when this district seemed a graveyard, as well. Highland's Frederick Law Olmstead-style Victorian landscape is one of our favorite walks from Depot Town. The Richardson Romanesque-Style chapel is a little-recognized national treasure in the manner of Boston's Trinity Church. Although the ends may differ, we suggest that our readers are the people who made it all happen and perhaps their interest will 'breathe some life' into Highland Cemetery, too. We applaud your interest and encourage our readers to get in touch with you to organize just the kind of support you suggest. - ed)

'Youth Quest' Kicks Off Weeks' Visit Here

Eastern Michigan University's program for gifted and talented high school students will begin each weekly camp program with a session in Depot Town focusing on 'Creative Community Cooperation'. Watch for sixty to seventy of the state's brightest teens touring the district from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. on four successive Mondays: July 13, 20, 27, and August 3.

Romulus-uns Tour District

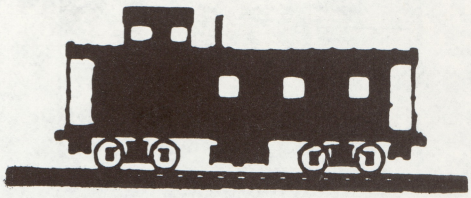
A June evening saw carloads of members of the Romulus Historical Society poking into every corner of Depot Town. Beginning with the Old Caboose, they continued on to see businesses, antiques, food and drink emporia and antique autos. Their members said thanks to all who showed them such gracious hospitality on June 11th

Depot Town Rag

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG:
A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.
The Depot Town Association, Inc.,
Gary McKeever, President
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Support the Businesses that bring you The Depot Town Rag

Get Your Heritage Festival Printing At
Standard Printing Company
35 East Cross St. • Ypsilanti, MI



D.T.A. 18 June 1987

Minutes of May approved. Treasury approved:

Total	**$4586.31**
General	4159.54
Rag	(1362.30)
Jazz	778.36
Caboose	30.00
Halloween	32.78
Boomer Days	553.93
Merchants	394.00

Also -- Depot Town Development Authority balance as of 5/31/87: $33.78. Only transaction was a $2.00 service charge.

Pay $75 to Visitors & Convention Bureau for damaged radios.

Victorian Holiday lighting was proposed by merchants' spokesman, Paul Fetters. DTA, property owners and merchants will split costs. More details at July meeting.

Frog Island Jazz has an $18,000 budget for artists. Call Three Star Security for Friday and Saturday night guards.

July 10, 11, 12 Boomer Days posters, flyers, brochures, program set. (See accompanying articles) Bonni Rosen-Fine still needs help with the Fash Bash and Scavenger Hunt.

Ypsilanti Historical Society annual dues paid.

Artrian's Sesqui-stamp painted by McKeever and Dodd was featured in DNR's 'Michigan' Magazine this month.

Depot Town Antique Engine Club enjoyed its first swap meet on Memorial Day. Thanks to City of Ypsilanti, Farmers' Market, Domino's Farms.

First Lady Award paperwork for C. McKeever nomination is complete. Committee is considering nominations from Washtenaw County.

Chamber of Commerce offices will move to the Breakey Mansion on North Huron Street by September. Donations of Greek Revival furnishings are being sought for what promises to be the most elegant such headquarters in Michigan.

Best Yet Award to Depot Town's First Lady, Carolyn McKeever (see article). See what happens when you miss a meeting?

Golden Goose Award to those who have still not met their obligation for the 1985 billboard program. Gentle reminders are in the mail to replace this huge deficit in the DTA treasury.

Somewhere In Time - An Edwardian Fashion Show and High English Tea will be presented in the Grand Salon of St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Saturday and Sunday, August 22nd and 23, at 4:00 p.m. (of course!). As a featured event of the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, you can travel back to an era of style and grace.

The program features an hour and a half of authentic fashions from 1837 - 1910 when the Edwardian Era was at its height. Violin and piano music from the period will be featured while you enjoy your English Tea and Cakes.

Donations are $5 at the door. St. Luke's is located in the heart of the Historic District, 1 block north of Michigan Avenue, at 120 North Huron Street.

Michigan 150 First Lady Award

- Recognizing Women for Community Service in Michigan -

Depot Town's McKeever in the Running

"The Sesquicentennial is our year in Michigan to honor the past, celebrate the present and build for a bright future. It is a time to take pride in one's community and the contributions of individuals making up Michigan's diverse populations. The Michigan 150 First Lady Award will highlight and recognize the contributions of women to their communities and to our great state. Our state is full of unsung heroines. Help us find these remarkable women of Michigan."

- Paula L. Blanchard, First Lady of Michigan.

Depot Town nominates Carolyn McKeever with the following highlights of her career of service to the community:

- Born in 1932 in Detroit of German/French/Welsh background attended Detroit's Cass Technical High School, married Gary McKeever in 1950 and had three children. She received a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Wayne University in 1973 and a Masters of Fine Arts from Eastern Michigan University in 1976. Gary and Carolyn moved from Garden City to begin Ypsilanti historic Depot Town rehabilitation in 1977. A graphic artist for various ad agencies, she has taught art at Washtenaw Community College, Henry Ford Community College and Eastern Michigan University.
- Past president (for 3 years) of the Depot Town Association, Inc.
- Past Ypsilanti City Councilmember, with special attention to improvements and preservation of Riverside and Frog Island Parks.
- Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce promotions: brochures, posters, graphic design
- Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau program; Heritage Festival, Festival of Lights.
- Huron River Watershed Council executive board member
- Washtenaw Council for the Arts, past board member
- Clean Michigan Fund commissioner, appointed by Gary Owen
- Commissioned to design and paint the exterior of the Michigan Artrain for its Sesquicentennial tour
- Jazz chair for neighborhood improvement and revitalization co-oping with radio station WEMU (Heritage Jazz Competition since 1979, Frog Island Festival since 1980, Winter Jazz Series since 1981.)
- Continuous rehabilitation of 19th Century buildings in Depot Town through the city's Historic District Commission
- Festival of Lights Chairperson, 1987

Creativity is Carolyn's community activist point of view; from painting signs, to planning community-centered musical events to cleaning up the states' waterways, she takes an aesthetic approach to the natural and built environments. Her leadership and example have created a healthy and safe environment for those who will follow.

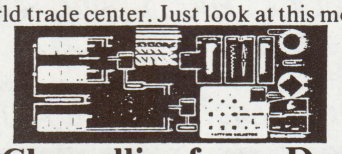
The DTA nomination has been reviewed by the State Committee and her qualifications stand up along with women leaders throughout the state of Michigan. Depot Town is both proud and lucky for her talents and interests.

Depot Town / World News

That map hanging in the Old Caboose now shows pins in farther-away places than Ann Arbor. Depot Town, it seems, has become another world trade center. Just look at this month's international items:

— World Headquarters for HET Club and Mag

White Triangle News, edited by Jack Miller of Miller Motors and printed at Standard Printing, is a slick monthly magazine sent to all points of the globe to collectors of Hudson, Essex and Terraplane automobiles. Jack's local dealership has also been given wide attention in other magazines as well as on regional and national television recently. Jack is also a past president of the HET club and still headquarters the group here.



— Chrysallis: from Depot Town to Australia and Back

Follet House resident, Jim Nelson, has developed his Chrysallis concept a SVM 5000 Video Mixer) and has parlayed it into and international development with offices in Victoria, Australia and sales back in the United States. Such export-import technique was invented in these upstairs studios and labs and the tradition continues.

— Depot Town Artists & Artisans Boss in China:

Dear DTA & A

Well, there are no starving artists here, but the pay is still poor. They all work in fine craft factories. Even painters are designated by the government. I've been travelling to art schools here. Their discipline is very traditional and intense. Their contemporary work is also very good. I'm taking lots of slides and notes. Hope all plans are going well.

— World-wide Fashion Plates

Linda Williams (Vintage Passion) and Professor Malarky (Follet House) appear in photography exhibits at Domino Pizza World Headquarters. Regular dressers-up in Depot Town, 'the Perfesser and that Fancy Lady' are finally recognized beyond the boundaries of this block.

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 East Cross 482-2124

The Grand Trunk, Ltd.
Cards & Gifts
15 East Cross 485-4994

Big Bob's Magazines
Magazines, Comics, Posters
50 East Cross 485-4930

Depot Doo
Fine Design in Hair Style
25 East Cross ‡ 484-3045

City Body, Inc.

First New Additions in a Generation

The new construction going on in the back of City Body and Miller's Ice Cream Parlor mark a building boom which has not been seen in this old district for many years. Such committment to the business climate in Depot Town shows recognition of the turn-around in this block and great faith in its future. Both City Body and Millers are in the midst of great physical up-date and expansion during this summer's building season and the buzz of saws and the banging of hammers is a welcome sound throughout the district. This constructive din, accompanied by the roar of an occasional freight train and the shreik of the Amtrak whistle, bring an uplifting musical program to the happy sounds of modern day Depot Town.

Miller's
SINCE 1906
ICE CREAM
42 E. Cross
•
Historic Depot Town
OPEN ALL YEAR!

RAGTIME
Small Town America
Is Alive And Well
Down in
Depot Town

Ike's Depot
Town Barbershop
40 East Cross • 483-6300

City Radiator
110 North River 483-2248

Ted's Auto Electric
307 North River 483-1238

B & D Retail
Plumbing & Heating
310 North River 487-1510

Old Town Restaurant
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
38 East Cross

Paponetti's Pasta
Homemade Italian Food & Pastries
17 East Cross 483-3574

Aubree's Saloon
& Second Floor
39 East Cross

Pronto Pizza
Pizza & Subs
37 East Cross 483-4555

Sidetrack
Good Food, Good Drinks,
Good Times
56 East Cross 483-1053

Stitches

One of Ypsilanti's most talented seamstresses has located on the block in what was the previous location of The Cricket Box and Everything Nice. Brenda Knox has opened **The Stitchin' Shop** at 27 East Cross and promises one of the prettiest windows in town with her bridal gowns and fancy dresses on display there. Her window sign hints at "designs on you," with emphasis on custom sewing, alterations and the best in bridal design available anywhere in the area.

YPSI FOOD COOP
WHOLE NATURAL FOOD IN BULK
OR SMALL QUANTITIES
M.,T.,Th.,F. 10-7 Wed. 10-9 312 N. River
483-1520 Sat. 9-7 Sun. 12-5

Flyers, Hobo Days and Potluck Picnic

The month of July is a very busy month for the Ypsilanti Food Co-op. July begins with the distributions of flyers which the co-op put together in June with the Vitamin Shoppe and Recycling Center which gives information about each and will continue to be handed out featuring co-op product specials in July.

In coordination with Boomer Days, the co-op will have Hobo specials July 10-12. Items will be specially priced and are an extra incentive for the community to buy the co-op's natural foods.

To conclude the month of July, the Ypsilanti Food Co-op will hold a potluck picnic and general membership meeting on Saturday, July 18. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. and the picnic immediately follows at 5 - covering co-op concerns of the past two months. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call 483-1520.

Ypsilanti's
Farmers'
Market
in historic Depot Town